



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/655,572

09/04/2003

Mark Dane

096005-0112

6428

48329 7590 10/26/2009

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
111 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
26TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02199-7610

EXAMINER

MCCORMICK, GABRIELLE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/26/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/655,572	Applicant(s) DANE ET AL.	
	Examiner Gabrielle McCormick	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,8 and 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,8 and 10-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 September 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the amendment filed on September 3, 2009.
2. Claims 1, 8, 12 and 15-16 have been amended.
3. Claims 17-20 have been added.
4. Claim 9 has been canceled.
5. Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-20 are currently pending and have been examined.

Previous Objection to the Drawings

6. The drawings were received on September 3, 2009. These drawings are acceptable. The previous objection is withdrawn.

Previous Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. The Examiner thanks the Applicant for the amendments to claims 1 and 12. The rejections are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11 and 17-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roy et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0069080 hereinafter referred to as "Roy") in view of Almog et

Art Unit: 3629

al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0002479, hereinafter referred to as "Almog") in view of Balabine et al. (US Pat. No. 5,937,406, hereinafter referred to as "Balabine").

10. Roy discloses a web based system for cataloging, inventorying, selecting, measuring, valuing and matching "Intellectual Capital Skills" using networked computers and where the data is stored in a relational database. The system stores "Intellectual Capital codes" that are used to create a job description. (P [0038]). The system is accessible to various users, including clients (employers) and recruiters (i.e., a requirements specialist. Note: The term "recruiter" is understood to be descriptive of the field of employment that specializes in matching candidates and positions, therefore, a recruiter is a requirements specialist). (P [0128]). This provides the teaching that either a client or a recruiter may determine, view, receive, develop or create any part of the invention.
11. **Claims 1, 17 and 18:** Roy discloses a method, system and computer-readable medium (Fig. 1; P[0119])
- *an interface;* (P[0123])
 - *permitting a first user to, develop a first job description, the first job description comprising a first set of components;* (P [0042] and Fig. 3(a))
 - *storing the first set of components in an online database;* (P [0039-0040] and [0136])
 - *permitting a second user to create a second job description having a second set of components, at least one of which is selected from the first set of components stored in the online database.* (P [0038]: The "Intellectual Capital codes" can be used to create multiple job descriptions. Fig. 3(a) discloses a template in which multiple job descriptions would use the common components (fields of the template) for data entry.)
12. Roy further discloses that a client can edit the position skills by adding or deleting skills as needed for a position. (P[0134]). Though Roy does not explicitly disclose that a second job description is created based upon the first job description, it is obvious that in editing a first job description by adding or deleting skills, a second job description is created and saved. Further, it is obvious to use a previous job description when creating a new one by editing the former. Roy

Art Unit: 3629

would be motivated to do so to build on its system of providing uniform and consistent terminology that allows for an accurate and systematic search and comparison of candidate skills. (P[0007]).

13. Roy also provides the motivation to create a second, edited job description in response to the matching results. It is obvious to create a revised job description in order to increase or decrease a pool of suitable applicants. For example, if the first job description results in a small pool of applicants, by editing the description to alter the requirements, the pool can be increased.
14. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included creating a second job description based on the first, in the system of Roy for the motivation of efficiently creating job descriptions that use consistent terminology that aids in matching and to allow control over the size of a pool of applicants through changing the skill requirements of a first description to create a second one.
15. Roy does not disclose that the second job description corresponds to a second job opening.
16. Almog, however, discloses in formulating requirements for a job, the server suggests requirements for the position based on previous job openings posted by that employer. (P[0111]). Thus, the second posting and description that is created is based on the first job description from the previous job opening that was posted.
17. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included basing the description for a second job opening on a first job description, as disclosed by Almog, in the system of Roy for the motivation of providing an effective and efficient means of creating job postings. Roy discloses that position information can be edited (P[0134]). It is old and well known to use an existing document as a template for a new one because it saves time. It is obvious to base a new job description on an old one. Examples of job posting information that would be consistent from one job posting to the next are the employer contact information. At the very least, one would be motivated to use a prior description as a starting point in order to reduce typographical errors. Further, it is obvious that Roy's system, when

Art Unit: 3629

accessed by a given employer for a second time in order to prepare a job description, the at least one component from the first set would include the name of the employer.

18. Roy does not disclose storing object-oriented objects in a database configured as an object hierarchy including a plurality of interrelated objects.
19. Balabine, however, discloses object-oriented databases that store objects in a hierarchy of classes. (C1; L41-52).
20. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included an object-oriented database, as disclosed by Balabine, in the system of Roy since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.
21. **Claim 2:** Roy discloses determining the first set of components (P [0035]) and a requirements specialist (P[0128]: a recruiter).
22. **Claim 3:** Roy discloses selecting an Intellectual Capital code (P [0038]: position requirements are created) and displaying to a client (Fig. 3(a) is a screen shot that would be displayed to a client accessing through the system illustrated in Fig. 1).
23. **Claim 4:** Roy discloses storing in a relational database. (P [0039]).
24. **Claims 5 and 7:** Roy discloses displaying the selection to a client and a recruiter using a computer system. (Fig. 3(a) is a screen shot that would be displayed to a client and a recruiter accessing through the system illustrated in Fig. 1).
25. **Claim 8:** Roy discloses a recruiter interacting with a client. (P [0134]).
26. **Claims 10 and 11:** Roy discloses an educational requirement and a task (skill). (P [0053]).
27. **Claims 12-16 and 19-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roy et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0069080 hereinafter referred to as "Roy") in view of Danielson et al. (US

Art Unit: 3629

Pat. No. 6,993,723, hereinafter referred to as "Danielson") in view of Balabine et al. (US Pat. No. 5,937,406, hereinafter referred to as "Balabine").

- 28. Claims 12 and 19-20:** Roy discloses a method, system and computer-readable medium (Fig. 1; P[0119] and interface (P[0123]). Roy further discloses a requirements specialist (P[0128]: a recruiter) receiving hiring needs and determining a job description. (P [0042]: the job description is created using the menu of skills required for the submitted job position). The job description is stored in an online database; (P[0039-0040] and [0136]). Roy further discloses that the client provides feedback on the job description (P[0134]: the client has the ability to edit the position skills) and that the recruiter modifies the job description (P[0135]: recruiter can enter/update and perform any of the tasks described above (i.e., those described in P[0134]) (P[0135]). P[0145] discloses that the recruiter has control over client entries, thus, the recruiter has the ability to edit the position description information. As the system is implemented over the Internet (P[0119]), the editing by the client is performed in real-time.
- 29.** Roy does not disclose a connection between the requirements specialist and the feedback.
- 30.** Danielson, however, discloses a collaboration system using groupware that allows for real-time data conferencing and group document handling. (C4; L49-67). This provides the ability to instantly share knowledge and work together. (C6; L47-50). Real-time user users are implemented via a chat window (C13; L55-56) and a message window (C14; L20-22).
- 31.** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included a real-time collaboration tool, as disclosed by Danielson, in the system of Roy for the motivation of enabling efficient and effective collaboration and communication in work session between two or more people independent of time and place. (Danielson; C4; L31-34). The combination of the collaboration tool with Roy would provide a means for real-time interaction between the recruiter and client. As Roy has disclosed, the client can provide feedback, as evidenced by the editing of the position information (P[0134]). Roy also discloses that the recruiter preferably controls the client's entries (P[0145]). It is old and well known that a purchaser of a service (the client) interacts with the supplier of the service (the recruiter) to

Art Unit: 3629

ensure that the client's needs are being met, therefore, it is obvious for the client and the recruiter of Roy to collaborate to ensure the client is satisfied with the recruiter's services.

32. Roy does not disclose storing object-oriented objects in a database configured as an object hierarchy including a plurality of interrelated objects.
33. Balabine, however, discloses object-oriented databases that store objects in a hierarchy of classes. (C1; L41-52).
34. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included an object-oriented database, as disclosed by Balabine, in the system of Roy since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.
35. **Claims 13 and 14:** Roy discloses displaying job descriptions to a client and a recruiter. (Fig. 3(a) is a screen shot that would be displayed to a client and a recruiter accessing through the system illustrated in Fig. 1).
36. **Claim 15:** Roy discloses storing in a database (P [0039]) and selecting codes from the database. (P [0038]).
37. **Claim 16:** Roy discloses an educational requirement and a task (skill) (P [0053]) where the skills are selected from a database (P [0038]).

Response to Arguments

38. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as detailed above.
39. Applicant argues that the combination of Roy with Almog is improper because Roy teaches away from creating a second job description corresponding to a second job opening and having at least one component which is selected from the first set of components.

Art Unit: 3629

40. Applicant states that "a user of Roy's system can easily create a new, accurate, customized job description", "these is no need...to copy existing job descriptions" and "revising a job description is not the same as creating a new job description". (Remarks; pg. 11).
41. The Examiner disagrees and asserts that Roy discloses that position information can be edited (P[0134]), thus it must also be stored. Further, it is obvious that Roy's system, when accessed by a given employer for a second time in order to prepare a job description, the at least one component from the first set would include the name of the employer. Therefore, Applicant's claim that Roy teaches away from creating a second job description for a second job is unpersuasive.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabrielle McCormick whose telephone number is (571)270-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (5:30 - 4:00 pm).

Art Unit: 3629

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/JOHN G. WEISS/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629